

be deprecated by the friends of religion and humanity. Their persuasions cannot fail at the right time to free the master from the slave and the slave from the master; perhaps before the latter shall have found out and acknowledged that the relation between the parties had long been mutually prejudicial to their worldly interests.

There is no evil without, in the order of Providence, some compensating benefits. The bleeding African was torn from his savage home by his ferocious neighbors, sold into slavery and cast upon this continent. Here in the midst South, the race has wonderfully multiplied, compared with anything ever known in the barbarous life. The descendants of a few thousands have become many millions; and all, from the first made acquaintance with the arts of civilization, and above all, brought under the light of the Gospel.

From the promise made to Abraham some thousands years had elapsed before the advent of our Savior, and the Israelites, the chosen people of God, were far less numerous, and suffered to remain in bondage longer than Africans have been on our shore. This race has already experienced the resulting compensations alluded to, and as the white missionary has never been able to penetrate the dark regions of Africa, or to establish himself in its interior, it may be within the scheme of Providence that the great work of spreading the Gospel over that vast continent, with all the arts and comforts of civilization, is to be finally accomplished by the black men restored from American bondage. A foothold there has already been gained for him, and in such a scheme centuries are but as seconds to him who moves as man moves a finger.

But what the remedies and compensations of slavery, to inspire piety, love and charity on all sides. The mighty subject calls for the exercise of all man's wisdom and virtue, and these may not suffice without aid from higher sources. It is in the foregoing manner that I have long been in the habit of conversation, of expressing myself, all over our common country, on the question of negro slavery, and I must say that I have found but very few persons to differ with me, however opposite their geographical positions. Such are the views or opinions which you seek. I cannot suppress or mutilate them, although no liable to be more generally known. Do with them what you please. I neither court nor shun publicity.

I remain, very truly yours,

WINFIELD SCOTT.

DEBATE IN THE SENATE—PROTECTION OF PROPERTY IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

An exciting debate took place in the Senate on Thursday, the 11th inst., upon the subject of slavery. The result of the recent attempt of slaves to escape. Mr. Hale, of New Hampshire, asked leave to introduce a bill for the protection of property in the District of Columbia—making any city, town, or corporate place liable for injuries done by mobs. In making this request, Mr. Hale stated that the bill was nearly an abstract of a similar law now in force in Maryland and many other States. Its necessity, he said, would be apparent to every Senator, from the fact that during the week, large and riotous assemblages had taken place in the District, and had threatened to carry into effect measures utterly subversive of law and the rights of property. "At this moment (said Mr. Hale) we present a singular spectacle to the people of this country and to the world. The votes of congressional republicans of France, on their deliverance from the hands of the mob, have been secured by the destruction of the freedom of the press, and the threatened in this Capital of the Union."

Mr. Bagby of Alabama, rose and said:—I rise for the purpose of giving notice that whenever that bill shall be reported by the committee—if it ever shall be—I shall propose to amend it by a section providing a sufficient penalty for the crime of kidnapping in this District. I was struck by a man made by the Senator from New Hampshire. He adverts to the kidnapping of the people of this country at the events now in progress in Europe, and thence infers that the slaves of this country are to be permitted to act the threats of their masters. I shall certainly, Sir, attend to this subject.

Mr. Hale in reply said that in his remarks he had purposely abstained from making the most distant allusion to slavery, because he wished to present to the consideration of the Senate the simple question of the integrity of the law and rights of property, unembarrassed by other considerations. As to the law of kidnapping, he should unite with the Senator from Alabama in favor of it. "Because (said he) if I am correctly informed by individuals upon whose testimony I place the most implicit credit, that one of the most outrageous cases of kidnapping was committed within the limits of this Capital, no longer than yesterday, and that the case of an individual having in his pocket an injunction issued by the highest judicial authority in this district to restrain all persons from molesting him. Yet, in violation of this injunction he was forcibly seized, not only without law, but against law—not only in utter neglect, but in flagrant contempt of the most sacred guarantee of our constitution. This outrage was perpetrated within the limits of the city, in the very neighborhood of the Capitol. I will, then, go with the Senator from Alabama here and hand in the adoption of any legislation for the prevention of such outrages; but I must say that it is very foreign to the object of the bill which I have introduced."

Mr. Calhoun said:

I suppose no Senator can mistake the object of this bill, and the occurrence which has led to its introduction. Now, Sir, I would state that even the Senator from New Hampshire should have some little notion of the laws and the Constitution of the country, as to introduce such a bill as this, without including in it the enactment of the severest penalties against the atrocious act which has occasioned this excitement. Sir, gentlemen it would seem have at last come to believe, that the Southern people and Southern members have lost all sensibility or feeling on this subject. I know to what leads. I have known the foremost of years ago, that this is tending. When this subject was first agitated, I said to my friends, there is but one question that can destroy this Union and our institutions, and that is, this very slave question, for I choose to speak of it directly. I said further, that the only way by which such a result could be prevented, was by prompt and efficient action—that if the thing was permitted to go on, and the Constitution to be trampled on, and if it were allowed to proceed to a certain point, it would be beyond the power of any man or any combination of men to prevent the result. We are approaching that crisis, and evidence of it is presented by the fact, that such a bill upon such an occurrence, should be brought in to prevent the just indignation of our people from weakening their vengeance upon the atrocious perpetrators of those crimes, or that contribute to them without a denunciation of the cause, that excited that indignation. I cannot but trust that I do not stand alone in these views.

I have for so many years raised my voice upon this subject, that I have been considered almost the exclusive defender of this great institution of the South, upon which not only its prosperity, but its very existence depends. I had hoped your members who have come into this body, to represent portions of the country, at least much interested in that fact, would have taken the lead

and relieved me from the necessity of ever again speaking upon this subject. I trust we will grant no leave to introduce this bill—but we will reject it, and that if anything, we will refer to the Committee on the Judiciary, it will be to make penal enactments, to prevent these atrocities—these wholesale captures—these robberies of seventy odd of our slaves at a single grasp. Delay is dangerous on this question. The crisis has come, and we must meet it—and meet it directly—and I will add we have ample means to meet it. We can put the issue to the North, if they disregard the provisions of the Constitution in its favor—if their seagoing vessels cannot safely come from coming there, and thus make the issue at once. If the stipulations in the Constitution in our favor are not to be respected, why should we respect those in others? I do not intend to make a long speech on this occasion, but I would here feel myself to be lacking in my duty to the people of the South, and to the people of the United States, had I not raised my voice against the introduction of such a bill on this subject.

Mr. Westcott of Florida, Mr. Davis of Mississippi, and Mr. Foote of Mississippi, also spoke in the usual blustering manner of the smaller fry of the Southern chivalry. Mr. Foote made a very silly speech—he couldn't do any thing else—the concluding paragraph of which we copy, as follows:

All must see that the course of the Senator from New Hampshire is calculated to excite the Confederacy. He is in a position to free institutions, to guarantee that Union which our forefathers established, and which every pure patriot throughout the country desires shall be perpetuated. Can any man be a patriot who pursues such a course? Who does not know that such men are practically the worst enemies of the slaves? I do not beseech the gentleman to stop; but if he perseveres, he will awake indignation everywhere, and it is not to be feared that he will not be met by the enlightened men, who are so ready to be understood to be the head, can sanction or approve everything that he may do under the influence of excitement in this body. I will close by saying, that if he really wishes glory, and to be regarded as the great liberator of the blacks—if he wishes to be particularly distinguished in this cause of emancipation, it is as called—let him, instead of remaining here in the Senate of the United States, or in the Senate of his own State, go to the corner of New Hampshire, where any possibly escape the just indignation of good men throughout this republic—let him visit the good State of Mississippi, in which I have the honor to reside, and no doubt he will be received with such hosannas and shouts of joy as have rarely marked the reception of any individual in this day and generation. I invite him there, and will tell him besides, in all honesty, that he could not go ten miles into the interior, before he would grace one of the tables of the fore-mentioned State with his neck, with the approval of every virtuous and patriotic citizen; and that, if necessary, I should myself assist in the operation.

In reply to an intimation from Mr. Foote, that he had been concerned in the escape of 70 slaves, Mr. Hale explicitly denied the statement. He then read a card published in the National Intelligencer by the Editor of the National Era, in which he denies that he had anything to do with the attempted escape of the slaves and states the position of the paper, viz: that he is in favor of no unconstitutional or illegal measures for the abolition of slavery believing that it can be effected in accordance with the constitution and law; that he has not violated this principle; that he has abstained from denunciation and addressed himself to the reason, conscience and patriotism of the slaveholders. We quote now from Houston's Reports:

Mr. Hale—I appeal to the sense of justice of the Senate, and of the people, to see that he is not assailing the character and property of a man who knew no more of this occurrence than any of its members?—I appeal to the honorable Senator who spoke so eloquently of the high and chivalric ideas of right which are understood in his section of the country. Mr. Foote—I ask the Senator—and I beg to remind him that twenty millions of people are listening to his answer—in the circumstances of the case, he is known to him, does he suppose that this occurrence could have taken place without extensive countenance and aid from men of standing in this District, whether members of Congress or others?

Mr. Hale—I have no doubt that those persons could not have got away without some aid. It is enough that I have disclaimed all knowledge of it. I thought that when the honorable Senator was speaking, more than twenty millions of people were listening. He invites me to visit Mississippi, and kindly informs me that he would be one of those who would act the assassin, and put an end to my career. He would aid in bringing me to public execution—no, death by a mob. Well, in return for his hospitable invitation, I can only express the desire that he would penetrate into some of the dark corners of New Hampshire, and if he do I am much mistaken if he would not find that the people in that neglected region would be ready to take to his arms, arguments and engage in an intellectual conflict with him, in which the truth would be elicited. I think, however, that the announcement which the honorable Senator has made on this floor of the fact which awaits so humble an individual as myself in the State of Mississippi, must convince every one of the propriety of the high eulogium which he pronounced upon her the other day, when he spoke of the high position which she occupied among the States of this confederacy. But enough of this personal matter.

I think, if I did not misunderstand the honorable Senator from South Carolina, that he is surprised at the tenacity of the Senator from New Hampshire in introducing this bill. Let me ask what is this bill?—What is this incendiary bill that has elicited such a torrent of invective? Is it a bill to give to the States a "fanatical abolitionist"? Why, it is copied almost word for word, from a law on the statute book, which has been in operation for years, in the neighboring State of Maryland. It has no allusion, directly or indirectly, to the subject of slavery. Yet I am accused of throwing it as a fire-brand, and in order to make war upon the institutions of the South! Why? In God's name, it is to me that, in the American Senate, and in the year of grace one thousand eight hundred and forty-eight, the rights of property cannot be named, but the advocates of slavery are in arms, and exclaim that war is made on their institutions, because it is attempted to cast the protection of the law over the property of an American citizen, who appeals to an American Senate!

It has long been held by you that your peculiar institution is incompatible with the rights of property; but if it be so incompatible with the safeguards of the constitution being thrown around property of American citizens, let your country know it! If that is to be the principle of your action, let it be proclaimed throughout the length and breadth of the land, that there is an institution so omnipotent—so almighty—that even the sacred rights of life and property must bow down before it!

Do not let it be said that I have introduced this subject. I have simply asked that the plainest provisions of common law—the clearest dictates of justice—shall be extended and exercised for the protection of the property of citizens of this District; and, yet, the honorable Senator from South Carolina is shocked at my tenacity.

Mr. Butler—Allow me to ask a question with perfect good temper. The Senator is discussing the subject with some feeling; but I ask him whether he would vote for a bill, properly drawn, inflicting punishment on persons inveigling slaves from the District of Columbia.

Mr. Hale—Certainly not, and why? Because I do not believe that slavery should exist here.

Mr. Calhoun—(In his seat.)—He wishes to arm the robbers, and disarm the people of the District.

Mr. Hale—The honorable Senator is alarmed at my tenacity—

Mr. Calhoun—(In his seat.) I did not use the word, but did not think it worth while to correct the Senator.

Mr. Hale—The Senator did not use the term.

Mr. Calhoun—No. I said it was brazen in the Senator, or something like that.

Mr. Hale—The meaning was the same. It was strange then that I should introduce a bill for the protection of property in this District—a bill perfectly harmless, but which he has construed into an attack upon the South. I ask the Senator and the country wherein consists the tenacity? I suppose in the section of the country from which it comes. He says we seem to think the South has lost all feeling? Ah!—There is the tenacity. The bill comes from the wrong side of a certain boundary. Why did the honorable Senator from Carolina imagine that we of the North with our faces bowed down to the earth, and our backs to the sun, had received the lash so long that we dared not look up? Did he suppose that we dared not ask the protection of the law to be thrown around property in the District to which we came to be the legislature?

I desire no war upon the institution of slavery in the sense in which the Senator understands me. I will not be a party to any encroachments upon rights guaranteed by the Constitution and the law—not at all. I wish no war, but a war of reason—of persuasion—of argument; a war that should lead to convincing the understanding, subduing the affections and moving the sympathies of the heart. That is the only war in which I would engage. But it is said the time has come—that the crisis has come, and that the South must meet it. In all candor and honesty, then, let me say, that there could not be a better platform on which to meet the question, than that presented by the principles of this bill. There could not be a better occasion than this to appeal to the country. Let the tocsin sound. Let the word go forth. Let the free North be told that their brave representatives on the floor of the Senate are not at liberty even to claim the protection of the rights of property.

The right of speech was secured long ago. But now it is to be proclaimed that we cannot even introduce a bill looking to the execution of the plainest provisions of the Constitution, and the clearest principles of justice for the protection of personal rights, because gentlemen choose to construe it into an attack upon that particular institution.

I ask again, what is it that has produced this spectacle, these denunciations, excited all this invective which has been poured out upon me as if I had been guilty of all the crimes in the catalogue? I call upon the Senate and the country to take notice of it. I ask on what do gentlemen of the South rely for the protection of any institutions on which they place any value? It will be answered upon the constitution and the law. Well, then, if the safeguards of the constitution are rendered inadequate to the protection of one species of property, how can it be supposed that there will be protection for any. It is because I desire to maintain in all their strength and ability, the safeguards of the protection of property in this District. And here let me tell my friend from Alabama, that I will waive my full cooperation in any measure to prevent kidnapping, shall expect him to redeem his pledge. Again, I am shocked to hear the honorable Senator from South Carolina denounce this bill as a measure calculated to oppress those citizens from the expression of their just indignation.

Mr. Calhoun—If the Senator will allow me, I will say a few words. But I will not take the occasion to say that I would just as soon argue with a man from hell, as with the Senator from New Hampshire on this question.

Several Senators—Order, order.

Mr. Calhoun—I do not intend to correct his statements. A man who says that the people of this District have no right to their slaves—and that it is no robbery to take their property from them is not entitled to be regarded as in possession of his reason.

After some further remarks by Mr. Hale—in which he said it was an extremely novel mode of terminating a controversy, by charitably throwing the mantle of mania over one's opponent—Mr. Foote again obtained the floor, and proceeded in a characteristic strain as follows:

I have declared that the duty of the people whose rights were thus put in danger would be, to inflict summary punishment upon the offender. But says the Senator, victims have been made that he could not other victims ready. I am sure that he could not persuade me that he would be a victim. I have never deplored the death of such victims and never shall deplore it. Such odious intermeddling deserved its fate. I believe no good man who is not a maniac, as the Senator from New Hampshire is apprehended to be, can have any sympathy for those who have interfered with the rights of others. He, however, will never be a victim! He is one of those glib disclaimers—a windy speech!

Mr. Crittenden—If the gentleman will allow me, I rise to a question of order. Gentlemen have evidently become excited, and I have alluded to language that is not becoming. I call the members to order for his personal reference to the Senator from New Hampshire.

The Chair decided the gentleman from Mississippi to be out of order, and he proceeded in a more moderate tone. Mr. Foote having concluded, Mr. Mangum of North Carolina addressed the Senate as follows:

It is now about fourteen years, I believe, since the Senate very wisely, by the concurrence of the ablest and most distinguished men on both sides, came to the resolution to exclude discussion upon the inflammatory topic of slavery; and that when abolition petitions were presented, upon the question of reception, a motion should be entertained—motion which is not debatable—and the vote taken upon it, to lay the motion for reception upon the table. There has been, ever since this rule was established, no more discussion of the subject, but I am sorry to perceive that there is a disposition manifesting itself to depart from the salutary rule of action which the Senate wisely prescribed for itself. Upon this question of slavery we know there are different opinions entertained in different sections of the Union. I stand here representing the interests of one portion of that Union, but I could not if I would, bring myself to a state of excitement and in consequence of any measures that may be thrown out. I stand upon the Constitutional compromise; and while I would not invade the rights of others, I am very sure that the sound portion of the community will not invade our rights. Why should we pursue this discussion? Is it to be believed that we are to be reasoned out of our convictions? Are we to be reasoned out of our convictions? No sir. Then why discuss the subject? Why not stand thus perfectly passive, but prepared to defend them when they shall be assailed? But are they to be assailed? Sir, nothing has occurred during this session that has afforded me more satisfaction than to hear from some of the ablest and most distinguished men in this Union the declaration that while they are opposed to an extension of slavery, they are not disposed to trample upon the compromise of the Constitution. This is our strength. It is to be

found in the patriotism of those who love the institutions of our country better than party. I believe the great body of the people are prepared to stand upon the compromise of the Constitution. It is upon this ground that I stand content and passive, and if I know myself I shall continue to do so. Sir, no good can result from this discussion. I shall vote against the reception of the bill at this time. And why? Because I think that the occasion which is selected for its introduction is a very unhappy one. It seems to grow out of the occurrence of an unwarrantable trespass, recently committed upon the rights of the citizens of this District, without being directed to the prevention of such aggressions in future, but on the contrary, having for its object the suppression of the manifestations of the feelings of indignation which such facts naturally create. We, who are the only legislators for the District of Columbia, are not informed of their wants and wishes in regard to the legislation upon this subject. If the people of this District require any other laws than they already have, for the purpose of protecting their property against unlawful violence, let them indicate to us their wishes; and I shall be ready to lend a willing ear to their request, and to aid in passing such a law as in my judgment may be necessary for their protection.

On the other hand, the citizens of this District, should require other and more penal laws for the purpose of protecting their slave property, I shall be as ready to vote for a bill for that purpose. But I shall never vote for one nor the other, when I find them pressed forward by gentlemen from remote portions of the Union, having few feelings in common with the citizens of the District. Sir, upon these subjects I am accustomed to look to the silent operation of the law for the protection of all our rights. In the state from which I come there is no excitement in regard to these subjects. If I know anything of the character of that loyal, steady, fixed and moderate State, there is no State, in the Union which will hold to her principles and her rights with more firmness than that State. But we appeal to the silent operation of the law; we know nothing of mob law or of Lynch law; we know nothing of excesses of this description. Although I have lived to be an old man, and most of the time in North Carolina, I have never seen anything in that State approximating even to a spirit of popular tumult.

Mr. Douglass of Illinois then took the floor.

I have listened to this debate with a good deal of interest. But while I have seen considerable excitement exhibited on the part of a few gentlemen around me, I confess I have not been able to work myself into anything like a passion. I think that probably the Senator from New Hampshire has done much to accomplish his object. His bill is a very harmless thing in itself; but being brought forward at this time and under the present circumstances, it has created a good deal of excitement among gentlemen on this side of the chamber.

In the first place, I must congratulate the Senator from New Hampshire on the great triumph he has achieved. He stands very prominently before the American people, and as I believe, the only man who has a national nomination for the Presidency. I firmly believe that on this floor to-day, by the side of the Senator from South Carolina, and the Senator from Mississippi, he has more than doubled his vote at the Presidential Election, and every man in this Chamber from a Free State knows it! I looked on with amazement for a time, to see whether there could be an understanding between the Senator from New Hampshire and his Southern friends, calculated to give him encouragement, strength and power in the contest. But I know that those distinguished Senators from the South, to whom I have referred, are incapable of such an undertaking, yet I tell them if they had gone into a caucus with the Senator from New Hampshire, and after a night's study and deliberation, had devised the best means to manufacture abolitionism and abolition votes in the North, they would have fallen upon precisely the same kind of procedure which they have adopted to-day. A few such exciting scenes were sufficient to send that Senator here. I mean no disrespect to him personally, but I say with his sentiments, with his principles, he could never have represented a free State of this Union on this floor but for the aid of Southern speeches. It is the speeches of Southern men, representing Slave States, going to an extreme; breathing a fanaticism as wild and as reckless as that of the Senator from New Hampshire, which creates Abolitionism in the North. The extremes meet. It is no other, than Southern Senators acting in concert, and yet without design, that produces abolition.

Mr. Foote—If the effect of my remarks will be to give to that Senator all the Abolition votes, he is fairly entitled to them. Had the Senator from Illinois lived where I have resided—had he seen insurrection exhibiting its fiery front in the midst of the men, women and children of the community—had he had reason to believe that the machinery of insurrection was at such time in readiness for purposes of the most deadly character, involving life, and that dearer than life, to every Southern man—had he witnessed such scenes, and believed that movements like that of this morning were calculated to engender feelings out of which were to arise fire, blood, and desolation, he would regard himself as a traitor to the best sentiments of the human heart, if he did not speak out of the language of manly denunciation. I can use no other language. I cannot but repeat my conviction, that any man who dares to utter such sentiments as those of the Senator from New Hampshire, and attempts to act them out anywhere in the sunny South, will meet death upon the scaffold, and deserves it!

Mr. Douglass—I must again congratulate the Senator from New Hampshire on the accession of five thousand votes!

The debate was closed by Mr. Davis of Massachusetts.

THE SUPPOSED DOUBLE SUICIDE.

The uncertainty which existed at Mobile and New Orleans relative to the disappearance of E. L. and Z. Andrews, both of the firm of Andrews & Co. is partially determined by the finding of the body of the former, at Mobile, under circumstances which left no doubt of suicide. His body was found on the 26th of near the wharf, whence it was supposed that he had thrown himself, and where his hat and umbrella were found the Saturday previous. It had risen from decomposition and was easily identified. His pockets were found loaded with weights, to secure him from rising.

This gentleman was a native of Philadelphia, and was about thirty-four years of age. He was an extensive cotton broker, and it is supposed that the late revolutions in cotton, had caused them considerable losses. We see by the New Orleans papers that nothing had been heard of the brother in that city, and his family have advertised for information of him. Both of them had communicated to their families their intention not to live. The Mobile Register, speaking of Mr. E. L. Andrews, says:

"Letters received from him make it certain that the apprehended failure of his house had so preyed upon his mind that he had determined not to survive, although the manner of his contemplated death was not intimated. The house has, through the worst of times, hitherto sustained an unimpeachable credit, and his honor was a passion with Mr. A. so strong that he could not bear to live under a protest. His private accounts are all accurately and satisfactorily arranged—his personal obligations were all settled—and every cent which he reached him appears to be duly accounted for. He left his watch, purse, and other pocket articles, in his private drawer, and communicated his leaving-taking to his partner and wife by a letter. There is a strong feeling in the community for the departed. Through a mercantile career of uncommon length, considering his years—he has been hardly beyond middle age—he has been noted for a high and scrupulous sense of honor, and was held in the highest credit. The dread of losing his position, it seems, drove him to his end—that, at least, is the conviction of all who knew him, or had had past dealings with him."

Another fire broke out at four o'clock this afternoon, in a frame building on Church street, between Lydian and South Broadway, used by Stephen T. Thorne, as a manufactory of camphene gas. The flames soon spread, with great violence and rapidity, north and south, destroying Thorne's store and two or three Dutch boarding houses, north of the Store, and on the south side of it a three story brick building, formerly the Fort Orange Hotel, also the Dayton House, the National Hotel, and the Columbia Hotel, all large three story buildings. The loss will exceed \$30,000, and all insurance companies are sufferers by this fire. The fire department, of East Troy and of West Troy sent down aid, being requested by telegraph to do so.

CONGRESS.

Thursday, May 11.

SENATE.—After sundry memorials and reports of Committees had been presented, the consideration of the Yucatan bill was renewed.

Mr. Davis, of Mass., addressed the Senate in opposition to the general principles contained in the message of the President on the subject. He hoped the Senate and the country would ponder well before entering upon a policy which might involve us in a war with nations more powerful than the imbecile Yucatanese.—Adjourned.

HOUSE.—The bill for the admission of Wisconsin into the Union was taken up and passed.

Friday, May 12.

SENATE.—The bill for the admission of Wisconsin into the Union was read twice and referred to the Committee on Territories.

After some other unimportant business, Mr. Reverdy Johnson, of Md., moved to take up his resolution, calling upon the President to communicate the names of officers serving in the army, whose nominations had been withheld, and his reasons for doing so. After he had spoken for some length, (in reply to Mr. Allen,) in defence of what he conceived to be the Constitutional rights of the Senate, and of the limitations of the Executive authority, the subject was deferred.

After some time spent in Executive Session, the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—The House was mainly employed, in Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union, upon the private Calendar.

The bill for the relief of Mr. Meade was passed.

Saturday, May 13.

SENATE.—After the presentation of sundry petitions, the Yucatan bill was taken up, and an able speech in opposition to it was made by Mr. Miller, of New Jersey, after which the bill was laid on the table, and the Senate adjourned.

HOUSE.—After some unimportant morning business, the private calendar was taken up, and an exciting slavery discussion ensued, on a bill granting indemnity to the heirs of Benjamin Hodges, deceased, for negroes lost in the last war with Great Britain, carried off by the enemy.

The speakers were Messrs Chapman, Tuck, Rhet, Burt, Woodward, Giddings, Bayley, Atkinson, and Holmes, of South Carolina. Mr. Giddings was never more vehement. He dared any Southern member on that floor—dared him over and over again—to meet the question whether slaves were or were not property. He said no one ever had, no one dared to take the position. Mr. Woodward and Mr. Holmes replied, and stated the case as they understood it. Mr. Giddings said they were on the fence, ready to jump on either side.

Without action on the bill, the House adjourned.

Monday, May 15.

SENATE.—The resolution of Mr. Johnson, respecting the army appointments, was called up, and, after some remarks by Mr. Borland, of Arkansas, was informally laid aside.

The Yucatan bill was then taken up, when Mr. Calhoun addressed the Senate in opposition to the bill.

HOUSE.—The bill for refunding monies advanced to volunteers in fitting them out for Mexico, and the bill for continuing the charter of the city of Washington, were taken up in order, and passed.

Mr. Andrew Stewart of Pennsylvania, submitted a resolution calling upon the Secretary of the Treasury for a report of the amount of breadstuffs and cotton exported to England during the two last specified periods, showing whether they were increased by the Tariff of 1846. On this motion debate sprang up, in which Messrs. C. J. Ingersoll, Stewart, Bayley of Virginia, & others, participated. Mr. Bayley moved an amendment to the resolution in favor of including specie and breadstuffs for the last twenty years. The resolution was then adopted, and on motion the House adjourned.

Tuesday, May 16.

SENATE.—The Yucatan bill was the chief subject of consideration. Mr. Bagby, of Alabama, spoke at length in support of the bill.

HOUSE.—The bill from the Senate, extending certain privileges to American trading vessels, and the Pension bill in favor of revolutionary soldiers, were read the third time, and passed.

The House took up the Naval Pension bill, and Mr. Bayley addressed the Committee, not on the bill, but on the rights of Territories.

Mr. Jas. S. Wiley, of Maine, read a speech, in which he favored the Mexican War, and defended the administration. When he concluded, the Committee rose, and the House adjourned.

MELANCHOLY.—We learn that two little daughters of Deacon Stora, living on the interval, were drowned in Winoski River last Friday, about 7 o'clock. One of them was about 10 and the other 12 years old.—Burlington Sentinel.

Gov. Henry Dodge, of Wisconsin, is spoken of in the Albany Atlas, and other Democratic papers, as a candidate for the Presidency.

Prof. C. B. Adams of this town late State Geologist of Vt. was seriously injured on Monday last by being thrown from his carriage. A severe gash was cut in his forehead, and great fears were entertained at first that one eye was destroyed.—Amherst Paper.

MURDER AT BARTONVILLE. Michael Coragan was murdered by James Hartly, at the Stone Quarry of H. & H. H. Baxter, in Bartonville, on Saturday evening last, about 7 o'clock.—They were out on the ledge together, and got into dispute about something, where Hartly picked up a stone, and deliberately walking up behind Coragan, struck him upon the back part of the head, near the right ear, fracturing the skull and producing almost instant death. The deceased Coragan was a large man, generally quiet and peaceable, and had been at work for two or three weeks. Hartly, the murderer, had been at work about two months on the road. He is supposed to be about 25 years old, is of small size, about 5 feet high, light complexion, and has lost one or two front teeth. He immediately made his escape, and has probably gone up the line. [Bellows Falls Gazette.]

ANOTHER FIRE IN ALBANY.

Correspondence of the Express.

ALBANY, May 15, 1848. A fire broke out at four o'clock this afternoon, in a frame building on Church street, between Lydian and South Broadway, used by Stephen T. Thorne, as a manufactory of camphene gas. The flames soon spread, with great violence and rapidity, north and south, destroying Thorne's store and two or three Dutch boarding houses, north of the Store, and on the south side of it a three story brick building, formerly the Fort Orange Hotel, also the Dayton House, the National Hotel, and the Columbia Hotel, all large three story buildings. The loss will exceed \$30,000, and all insurance companies are sufferers by this fire. The fire department, of East Troy and of West Troy sent down aid, being requested by telegraph to do so.

FROM THE ARMY.

Later from Mexico.

PETERSBURG, May 14.

ARRIVAL OF GEN. PILLOW, TOWSON, AND CUSHING.—GEN. SCOTT ON HIS WAY TO NEW YORK.

Another Overland Express has just arrived, bringing New Orleans dates to the 8th inst. The steamship Orleans, Capt. Auld, had arrived at New Orleans from Vera Cruz, which place she left on the 3d inst.

Gen. Pillow, Towson, and Cushing, and a large number of officers came passengers. It was generally believed in Mexico, that the treaty would be ratified.

General Scott and staff arrived at Vera Cruz on the 30th ult., and immediately embarked on board the Petersburg direct for New York.

PLAN OF THE BATTLE OF SANTA CRUZ. A grand plan of this brilliant achievement, the last (probably) of the glorious actions which have marked the military prosecution of the war, has been received in this city from Major B. L. Beal, of the first United States Dragoons—a gallant officer, who has seen hard and distinguished service in Mexico, and was promoted for good conduct at Cerro Gordo. It appears from this plan, that by a judicious disposition of his little force, the commanding officer, Gen. Price, completely surrounded the place, commanding the approach from all directions. The assault was then made, and after a desperate resistance from the enemy within the walls, was crowned with decisive success. Major Beal states that the number of our forces actually engaged was 386; that of the enemy 900, and in a well fought position.—Baltimore Patriot, Saturday.

GEN. CUSHING—THE PEACE TREATY.—The New Orleans Crescent of the 8th inst., says:—"We had the honor of a passing call from Gen. Cushing last evening, who informed us that he intended posting on forthwith to the North. Gen. Cushing is in the possession of the most perfect security, and has seen and well withstood his residence and operations in Mexico. We learn from the General that there is little doubt of the ratification of the Peace Treaty by the Mexican Congress. A quorum does not so soon convene at Queretaro, the government will have the treaty passed through the forms without a quorum—that is, if the American Commissioners will accept of it in that way."

GEN. SCOTT.—The Piracy publishes a correspondence between Gen. Scott and Mr. Crossman, Mayor of New Orleans, in which the latter tenders him the hospitalities of the city. Gen. Scott, in a letter written on board the brig Petersburg, May 1, respectfully declines the invitation on the ground of his peculiar situation with the government.

THE COURT OF INQUIRY.—The New Orleans Piracy of the 8th inst., says:—"The Court of Inquiry, at the St. Charles Hotel, in this city, this morning, with closed doors, and adjourned until to-morrow morning, when various witnesses now in this city will be examined. We understand that the members of the Court will leave the city on the 10th or 11th by the way of the river, to hold a session in Frederick, Md., where they will adjourn about the 29th instant, unless something unexpected should turn up in the meantime."

MORE TROUBLE IN HAVTI.—The following is an extract from a letter to a highly respectable mercantile house received in Boston dated:

"AUX CAYES, April 14.—Our city and its environs are in arms. The people are determined to overthrow the President and the present order of things, and to elect another chief. The alarm gun has been fired in Cavallion, St. Louis, Aquin and Aux Cayes, and business generally is suspended. Col. Tonis Jaques, who is the chief of this insurrection, yesterday took forcible possession of Cavallion twenty miles from Aux Cayes, and is reported to be marching on our city! All stores are closed. Every citizen is enrolled in the military ranks, and perform duty day and night. The Ministers have resigned by the desire of the populace, and the newly elected ones are afraid to accept office. All is disorder and confusion, and we have fears that the present state of things may last for some time."

THE DETROIT FIRE.—The Detroit Free Press of the 13th inst., contains a map of the burnt district of that city, with a list of the names of the sufferers as far as could be ascertained. The whole number of sufferers named is 124, and there are about 47 families and 30 owners of buildings whose names could not be ascertained. The whole amount of loss is stated at \$200,000, and the insurance at less than \$